# Korea Family Readiness Groups

# FRG Mission

**To assist Commanders in maintaining readiness of Soldiers, families and communities within the military by promoting self-sufficiency, resilience, and stability during war and peace.**

# Agenda

- This is Korea
- Paradigm Shift
- Eighth Army's Approach
- Challenges
- CONUS Support
- Conclusion

# This is Korea

- **Widely dispersed units**
- **30 km from North Korea, under the guns everyday**
  - **Evacuation of family members**
  - **Family Readiness is mission imperative**
- **92% unaccompanied / 8% accompanied**
  - **22,000 Army personnel and approximately 6,600 family members (3,900 Command Sponsored & 2,700 non-command sponsored)**
- **Limited support infrastructure (Medical/Schools)**
- **Demographics**
  - **Command Sponsored / Non-Command Sponsored families / Waiting Families**
  - **ALL families are part of FRG**
  - **Foreign born spouses support**

# Paradigm Shift

## Then

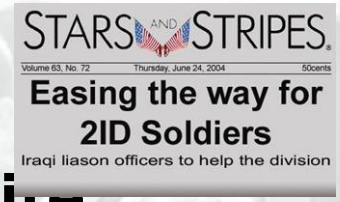
- FRG "not necessary"
- Forward Deployed
- North Korea threat focus
- 38,000 military
- 1-year tour
- Substandard living and working conditions
- Limited Housing Allowance (no COLA)
- Turbulence in Korea
- Least desirable assignment in the Army

## Now

- FRG (imperative)
- Deploy from Korea
- nK + GSAVE focus
- 22,000 military
- Extended tour
- Improved infrastructure / QOL
- Full Overseas Housing Allowance (COLA)
- Stability in Korea
- The "Assignment of Choice"

# Eighth Army's Approach

- FRGs in Korea are NOT optional
- Leverage Technology
  - Established 8th Army FRG website
  - Extensive use of e-mail and vFRG to connect with families in Korea, in CONUS and around the world
  - Utilize automated In/Out processing system to capture family information for FRG/ACS
- Institutionalize semi-annual FRG Rallies
- Maintain Active Family Support Program
- Create FRG Quickstart Guide
- Payoff: 2BCT deployment
  - Created vFRG site
  - Negotiated SOFA for famili
  - Established four FRG/Deployment assistance positions


STARS AND STRIPES
Volume 63, No. 72 Thursday, June 24, 2004 50cents
Easing the way for 2ID Soldiers
Iraqi liason officers to help the division

STARS AND STRIPES
Volume 64, No. 58 Monday, March 14, 2005 50cents
More families headed to Korea
8th Army bolstering support groups

Commander & FRG Leader
Partnership Guide
Quick Starting your Family Readiness Group
Korea Army Family Readiness Group Letter
What is an FRG?
What an FRG is & is not
How to Start your FRG
Who is the FRG Leader?
Commander's Responsibilities
FRG Leader's Responsibilities
Benefits of a Healthy FRG
Typical FRG Organizational Chart
Tool Box of Resources

STARS AND STRIPES
Volume 64, No. 142 Tuesday, August 23, 2005 50cents
Strike Force family readiness
Web site to serve as model for Army

STARS AND STRIPES
Volume 64, No. 65 Sunday, May 8, 2005 50cents
Providing support during deployments
2 ID's Family Readiness Groups

# Challenges

- Transformation / Restationing
  - Unit moves/relocation between areas
  - Consolidation of US Forces
  - Troop Reduction
  - Rotational Forces
- TRICARE Standard vs. Prime
- OIF/OEF Deployments
- Connection to Waiting Families Program

# CONUS Support: We need your help

- Energize the Waiting Families Program - ACS
- Educate incoming commanders and spouses that FRGs are part of their mission in Korea
- Inform Soldiers and families on assignment to Korea about entitlements, challenges and support programs available
- Leaders at all levels emphasize the positive aspects of service in Korea

# Conclusion

- Korea “Assignment of Choice” for family members
- Everyone important to the Soldier is a part of the FRG – worldwide
- FRGs are vital to mission readiness